DECCAN HERALD : 14th JUNE 1953

KRISHNA RAO'S NEW DANCE COMPOSITIONS : PERFORMANCE AT TOWN HALL, BANGALORE , June 14.

An exquisite execution of classical Indian dance was given by Mr.U.S.Krishna Rao, Mrs.U.K.Chandrabhaga Devi and party at the Town Hall here this evening.

The performance was in aid of Sri Raghavendraswamy Mutt at Tirupathi Hills, Mr.H.K.Veeranna Gowdh, President, Mysore Pradesh Congress, presided.

The programme included five compositions of pure technique, Alarippu, Jat iswaram, Mohini Attam, Abhinayam and Tillana and five ballets, "Karthikeya" "Kamadahan, "Bahubali", "Tragedy of Life" and "Peacock Dance" the first four of which are new conceptions of the dancer.

Mr. Krishna Rao, no stranger to the aesthetes of Bangalore, and his wife Mrs. Chandrabhaga Devi, were in themselves a strange contrast, one of th "Bheebhatsa" type while the other, tender like dew on the stage and brought tolife the Shiva-Kamatha episode with effect in Kamadahan while their tillana duet gave the climax to the day's programme.

The highlight of the evening was provided by the pretty Miss Balamani (about 13 yyears) who held the gathering in the spell of her Alarippu and Abhinayam.

During the interval Mr. Veeranna Gowdh addressed the audience and wished that the able dancer spreads the Indian culture far and wide.

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SEMINAR DELEGATES IMPRESS : (From our Staff Correspondent): Mysore, June 14.

Members of the World University Service Seminar now being held at the Maharaja's College in Mysore City, were given a lecture and demonstration of Indian classical dancing by Mr. U.S.Krishna Rao of Central College, Bangalore the famous exponent of this old art form.

Explaining the traditional poses, symbols and movements of the classical Indian dance, Mr. Krishna Rao told the students of the origin and development of the various styles of Indian dance. Stressing the devotional importance of the dance, Mr. Krishna Rao showed how closely the dance and Indian religion is connected.

The exposition covared the well-known dance styles of Bharatha Natya, Kathakali, Manipuri and Mohini Attam of South India.

Mr. Krishna Rao and his wife Mrs. U.K.Chandrabhaga Devi, after the lecture gave an exhibition of the various types of dances, in costume, and with music.

The students were very much impressed with the lecture-demonstration and many said they felt it a great help in obtaining an insight into Indian art and culture. Said one: "It seems to be a co-ordination of body, mind and heart in an expressive devetional way, I was much impressed."

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MYSINDIA: July 12, 1953. TERPSICHORE

An ardent devotee of Terpsichore and a fervent exponent of Bharata Natyam and Kathakali, Prof. U.S.Krishna Rao is a well-known figure in cultural circls in Bangalore. Though a man of science and a lecturer on chemistry by profession. Indian classical dancing has always been the dominating force in his life.

Intellectual vigour, versatility and enthusiasm are keynotes of his character. Not content with making a name for himself as a dancer and teacher of dancing he has taken it upon himself to educate the layman, and the many interesting lectures, he has given on Indian dancing have helped the public of Bangalore to understand and appreciate this most complicated and scientific of arts.

Prof. Krishna Rao has frequently performed before Bangalore audiences. He is always accompanied by his wife Chandrabhaga Devi, who isherself an accomplished dancer. The Professor's energy and clear-cut technique pair

admirably with his wife's grace and delicate sense of rhythm, and it is a pleasure to see the two of them togethor onthe stage.

At a recent dance recital at the Town Hall, Prof. Krishna Rao revealed once again, not only his falir for dancing, but his skill as a choreographer, for most of the items on the programme were compositions of his own. A stickler for convention and technique, he never losses sight of the strict rules and regulations of the highly stylized arts of Bharata Natyam and Kathakali yet finds ample scope for his creative imagination, and his compositions are original and surge with vibrant life.

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THE HINDUSTAN TIMES, SATURDAY, April 17, 1954.

BHARATANATYAM RECITAL BY PROF. KRISHNA RAO : KANNADA CULTURAL FESTIVAL

(By a Staff Correspondent)

Leading musicians, dancers and amateurs theatre groups from the Kannada speaking areas of South India - some parts of Madras, Hyderabad, Bombay, Mysoore and Coorg - are in Delhi inconnection with the Kannada Cultural Festival.

The highlight in the second day's programme was a Bharatanatyam recital by Prof. U.S.Krishna Rao of Mysore Universit and his wife Mrs. Chandrabaga. The numbers included solo performance of Alarippu and Mohini Attam by Mrs. Chandrabaga and Tragedy of Life (an original composition in Bharatnaatyam style) by Prof. Rao who, though an engineer is not merely an accomplished dancer but a scholar with a thorough knowledge and history of this style of classical dancing. There were two duet items, the Natanam Adinar, the famous composition based on a song by Bharati and a Tillana. There has been good many charming Bharatanatyam recitals in Delhi by reputed dancers but it was a unique experience to witness Prof. Rao's presentation on Friday.

On the previo s evening he had explained the alphabets of Bharatanatyam that is, the foot-work had-gestures and facial expressions. At Friday's performance the professor prefaced every recital with brief explanatory remarks and a brief interpretative recital of each number in slow temp with a lucid English translation of the accompanying song. The duet recitals of Natanam Adinar and Tillana brought out thecontrast between the masculine and feminine forms the same thense adopts depending on whether the dancer is a man or a woman. This technique was employed, Prof. Rao explained, in the introductory remarks, as some critics mistakenly believed Bharatanatyam to be a dance-media only for women.

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"Nabinkuthi"
Ashoka Raj Path, Patna - 4.
April 5, 1957.

My dear Prof. Krishna Rao,

It is a long long since I have written to yo . I do not know how to thank you. It is only due to you that we have been able to popularise Bharatnatyam - the great art of India, in this part of the country, which was so long absolutely ignorant about that art. Now we have atleast a dozen pupils who can perform differont xx items of BharatNatyam and some of them are really very good.

With best greetings to both of you,

Yours sincerely,

Sd. O'NEIL DE.